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HERB CAEN

Trips on a Tripewriter

THE TOURIST season is on already? Paul S[illegible] gle, editor of The R[illegible] found a [illegible]

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WATERGATE IS making everybody wary, right on down to the local level. For instance, during a meeting of the Newcomen Society, a British American group, at the Bohemian Club last week, it was noticeable that whereas a Britisher offered a toast to "Her Majesty, the Queen," Alfred Eames Jr. proposed one simply "To the office of the Presidency of the United States." Since Mr. Eames is board chairman of Del Monte Foods, it's quite likely he knows the incumbent's name but couldn't quite bring himself to utter it.

At Stanford Court, where Lexitron Corp. of L.A. was showing off its new products, Dave Laing of Market Insight Corp. noted in a brochure that Lexitron's lawyer, Herbert Kalmbach, is also personal lawyer to Mr. Nixon (THAT's the name, Mr. Eames!). "You going to remove Kalmbach from your literature?" Laing asked Lexitron's Harold Street, who shook his head. "I hate name-droppers," he grinned . . . Now we rush to Hotel St. Francis, where Gov. Wendell Ford of Kentucky, hosting a party, is asked by Bandleader Nick Jordan: "Want us to play 'California, Here I Come,' Governor?" "No," replies Ford grimly. "Not till Reagan tells all he knows about Watergate" . . . As you've read, that's a subject Reagan now avoids, but he made the definitive statement early in the going. "Those aren't criminals," he said of the Watergate gang. "They just did something illegal."

Mike Miles of KSBW-TV in Salinas got a photo but he still can't believe it: a State of California official car, complete with seals on door — and this sticker on the bumper: "Impeach the President" (go get 'em, Ron).

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